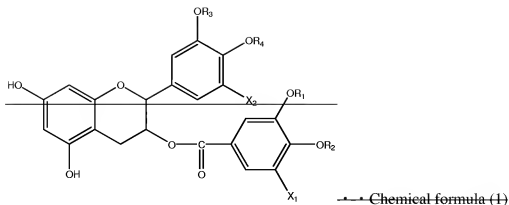


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

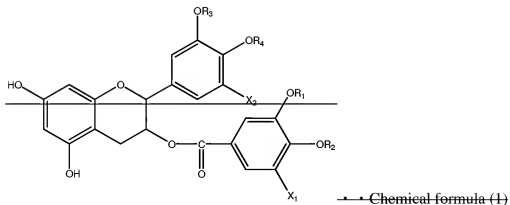
1. (Currently Amended) A method of using a functional beverage to treat or prevent hyperlipidemia or gallbladder/liver disorders, wherein the functional beverage contains 1 mg to 30 mg/100ml of at least one kind selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and isomers thereof, derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of “Benifuuki”, “Benifuji”, “Benihomare”, “Yaeho”, “Surugawase”, “Yutakamidori”, “Kanayamidori”, “Okumusashi”, “Seishin-taipan”, “Seishin-oolong”, “Ohba-oolong”, “Benibana”, “Benihikari”, “Yamakai”, “Yamamidori”, “Karabeni”, “Koushun”, “Souhuu”, “Okumidori” and mixtures thereof, containing an O-methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below, wherein the functional beverage contains the O-methylated catechin in a quantity of active ingredient as an allergic rhinitis-suppressing drug, a lipid-lowering drug and a gallbladder/liver function-improving drug and wherein the functional beverage contains the O-methylated catechin in an amount of 1 mg to 30 mg per 100 ml of the beverage.



[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]

2. (Original) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the O-methylated catechin is derived from one selected from the group consisting of Benifuuki, Benifuji, Benihomare, Yaeho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishintaipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.
5. (Previously presented) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of using a composition to treat or prevent hyperlipidemia or gallbladder/liver disorders, wherein the composition contains a constitutive effective amount of at least one kind of active ingredients selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and isomers thereof, derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of “Benifuuki”, “Benifuji”, “Benihomare”, “Yaeho”, “Surugawase”, “Yutakamidori”, “Kanamidori”, “Okumusashi”, “Seishin-taipan”, “Seishin-oolong”, “Ohba-oolong”, “Benibana”, “Benihikari”, “Yamakai”, “Yamamidori”, “Karabeni”, “Koushun”, “Sofu”, “Okumidori” and mixtures thereof, containing an O methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below, wherein the composition contains the O methylated catechin in a constitutive effective amount as an allergic rhinitis suppressing drug and a lipid lowering drug.



[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]

7. (Original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye wash.